

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00

ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 TRSE-00 IO-13 /066 W

-----045416 021216Z /44

O P 021150Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1453

INFO AMEMBASSY COTONOU PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 2103

E.O. 11542: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PEPR, GB, DM

SUBJECT: FONMIN BONGO HOLDS MEETING ON BENIN WITH DIPLOMATIC CORPS

REF: (A) LIBREVILLE 2098, (B) LIBREVILLE 2094

1. FONMIN MARTIN BONGO MET WITH CHIEFS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS MORNING AUG 2 TO REPORT ON BENIN AFFAIR. MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY LOCAL PRESS AND, WHILE OBTENSIBLY WAS HELD TO BRIEFS COMS, SUBSTANCE WAS ALSO CLEARLY INTENDED FOR OUTSIDE WORLD.

2. DETAILS, WHICH IN ANY CASE CONSISTED LARGELY OF HISTORICAL RUNDOWN OF BENIN/GABON PROBLEM SINCE MERCENARY INCIDENT AT COTONOU IN JANUARY 1977 AND ADDED LITTLE IF ANYTHING NEW, WILL BE REPORTED SEPTEL. BONGO, HOWEVER, CLOSED MEETING BY STATING THAT BECAUSE KEREKOU WAS INSISTING THAT THOSE BEING REPATRIATED BE SENT DIRECTLY TO COTONOU, GABON WAS SEEKING HELP FROM HER FRIENDS IN MATTER OF TRANSPORT, AND MADE SPECIAL MENTION TWICE OF FRIENDLY "GRAND PUISSANCES." MORE THAN ONE DIPLOMAT COMMENTED AFTERWARD THAT HE OF COURSE REALLY MEANT US.

3. THUS, IT QUITE POSSIBLE THAT DEPARTMENT MAY GET QUESTIONS FROM MEDIA AS TO (A) WHETHER WE HAVE BEEN ASKED, AND (B) WHAT
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OUR RESPONSE IS OR WILL BE. IF ASKED HERE, I WILL SIMPLY REPLY THAT WE HAVE OF COURSE REPORTED SUBSTANCE OF FONMIN'S MEETING TO WASHINGTON, AND HAVE NO COMMENT. I WILL MAKE NO REFERENCE TO WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY TOLD GABONESE. I WOULD APPRECIATE PRESS GUIDANCE ASAP FOR USE ON IF-ASKED BASIS, HOWEVER, PARTICULARLY IF IT DIFFERS FROM STATE 189801, AND SUGGEST THAT ANY NEW GUIDANCE ALSO INCLUDE OUR COMMITMENT TO PRINCIPLE THAT

AFRICANS SHOULD RESOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS. TIENKEN

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 02 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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